independent of EPA guidance. In late 1984, EPA issued public notice of proposed Recommended Maximum Contaminant Levels (RMCLs) and Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for many organic and inorganic chemicals in drinking water with appropriate technical supportive information. This information should be immensely helpful to the states in setting standards.

In view of the complexity of setting standards to assist in protection of ground water, the committee recommends the following:

- EFA should proceed expeditiously with promulgating the RMCLs and MCLs that it has recently proposed, and EPA should propose and promulgate EMCLs and MCLs for all other inorganic and organic chemical compounds commonly found in ground water.
- EPA should continue to provide technical information to states about the organic chemicals in ground water for which it has not promulgated RMCLs or MCLs.
- The application of numerical standards to ground water is a matter of state policy, and there is no single approach that would be appropriate on a national basis. Ambient ground water standards should be based on the individual state's adopted goals and objectives. These may include protection of beneficial uses other than drinking water, nondegradation, and protection of ecological systems.
- Wisconsin is one state reviewed by the committee that has developed a two-tiered set of standards designed to limit degradation of ground water and require action by polluters. In setting standards the states should consider a multi-tiered standard-setting approach that can be used to prevent degradation of high-quality ground water and to protect public health.
- In addition, the committee recommends that EPA provide states with a central permanent source of technical information and standard-setting criteria. However, EPA should have the capability to establish overriding standards when states establish inconsistent standards preventing effective long-term prevention of ground water degradation.

## Control of Contamination Sources

### Hazardous and Solid Waste Management

Both nonhazardous and hazardous wastes disposed of on land can be major contributors to ground water degradation. While the quantities of waste needing disposal in landfills can be significantly reduced by a variety of source reduction and treatment techniques such as incineration and resource recovery, such processes also generate atmospheric pollutants and ash residues requiring proper treatment and disposal.